common growth in the mountainous districts of Upper Georgia, but I do not remember to have seen the *S. stellata* except in the North Carolina mountains.

Had Dr. Darwin known of the extraordinary curative properties ascribed to the plant, he would not, perhaps, have written of

"The *fell* Silene and her sister fair,"

or, as "Skilled in destruction."

I will mention that there was very little viscidity about the species under consideration, not enough, I think, to entrap the feeblest insect. Quite the contrary, however, with the *S. Virginica*.—ELIZABETH L. H. WILLIS, *Charleston, S. C.*

The Genus Podophyllum.—This little genus is rapidly coming to the front in botanical interest and leaving far behind the idea that it is monotypical. Upon the very heels of the discovery of the Formosan *P. pleianthum* comes another new species from S. E. China. Dr. Hance, who describes it in the *Journal of Botany* for December, says that it agrees with "its insular ally in the color, number, and atrocious odor of its flowers, but differs in their extra-axillary position, just as the Himalayan *P. Emodi* disagrees with *P. peltatum*." The inflorescence of the four species now known would form an interesting morphological study. In *P. peltatum* and *P. pleianthum* the leaf stalks can easily be called petioles, but in the two other species the prolongation above the leaf indicates a stem, or rather a branch from the rhizome. In the new plant, which is called *P. versipelle*, the leaves vary in outline from a square, parallelogram, triangle or pentagon, to a circle, and are either with or without lobes. Dr. Hance gives the following arrangement of the species:

I. *Diplostemon.*—Stamens twice as many as the petals. Flowers white, solitary, terminal between opposite leaves. American.—*P. peltatum.*

II. *Isostemona.*—Stamens of the same number as the petals. Asiatic.

Flowers white, solitary, extra-axillary.—*P. Emodi.*

Flowers purplish, aggregated.

Flowers between opposite terminal leaves.—*P. pleianthum.*

Flowers extra-axillary.—*P. versipelle.*

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A NEW MANUAL of the flowering plants of the Northern United States is in course of preparation by Prof. W. A. Kellerman, of the Kansas Agricultural College.

W. N. SUKSDORF's third fascicle of Washington Territory plants is very attractive, and the price for sets or desiderata is so reasonable that many botanists will doubtless take this opportunity to fill up some gaps.

IN VOL. IV, of the Proc. Dav. Acad., Dr. C. C. Parry describes four new plants from Southern and Lower California. They are *Phacelia suffrutescens*, *Ptelea aptera*, the specific name referring to the wingless fruit, *Polygala Fishiæ*, and *Gilia Orcuttii*.

ALL OUR HERBARIA contain specimens from Mr. A. H. Curtiss, and we do not need to call attention to their value as species, nor their completeness of preparation. The successive fascicles, now numbering seven, have each brought many accessions eagerly sought for by botanists. This season Mr. Curtiss will collect such plants of North Florida as are ordered, and will send lists to purchasers for selection. He can be addressed at Jacksonville, Florida.

BREFELD DEVOTES the fifth part of his *Botanische Untersuchungen* to the development of the *Ustilagineæ*. By using nutritive fluids for his cultures he was enabled to obtain far more important results than those of other observers. By this means he found that the sporidia produced by the germinating spores have the behavior of conidia, and that the so-called conjugation in *Tilletia*, which is without sexual significance, does not occur when nutriment is abundant.

AS WE GO to press the death of Dr. Geo. Engelmann is announced, and to western botanists especially it comes like the shock of a family bereavement. So great and so kind, was the general thought in regard to him, and we hope soon to be able to give to our readers a suitable memorial notice.

PROF. EDWARD S. BURGESS, of the Washington High School, has published a "Syllabus of the Courses in Botany and Zoology," which rather surprises one accustomed to the ordinary High School biology. Of course the means of illustration in Washington are unusually good, thanks to the Botanical Gardens and National Museum. But the main point is, that use seems to be made of the materials within reach, which would work a revolution in probably nine-tenths of our schools. But the Botanic Gardens and National Museum are by no means the only things Prof. Burgess uses, but he depends largely upon what every teacher has, the inexhaustible Botanic Garden and Museum of Nature herself. One only needs Nature to teach pupils much natural science, but the trouble is that much of our school natural science is so very unnatural.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

Arctostaphylos, Adams. Notes on the U. S. Pacific Coast species, from recent observations of living plants, including a new species from Lower California. By C. C. Parry. From proceedings Davenport Acad. Science, vol. iv.

Some twenty-five species of *Arctostaphylos* are recognized by botanists, thirteen of which are found within the limits of this paper. The only one of general distribution is the well-known *A. Uva-ursi*. Five species are exclusively Californian, three of which Dr. Parry characterizes as doubtful, or imperfectly understood. Seven other species extend into Mexico, including the new species *A. oppositifolia*. This species, together with *A. nummularia*, Gray, are placed in a new section, *Micrococcus*, characterized by the fruit with thin pericarp, without mealy pulp, wrinkled at maturity, and the four or five nutlets easily separating. *A. oppositifolia* differs from all other members of the genus in its opposite or ternately-whorled leaves, and is noted for its two-celled nutlets.